4 PS 269

Sir

Watertown Mar. 17th 1776 —

I have the pleasure to inform you that this day the Troops left Boston — we had the News here just as we rose from dinner — I immediatly set off with Mr. Gill & Mr. Freeman to go into Boston if we could obtain a pass — Mr. Gill obtaind a pass from the General & we went in — I found the Town in a much better situation than I expected tho. I had not time to go over the Town being obliged to come out with ye same pass before dark — am informd they carried of almost all the English Goods that was in Town & a great deal of ye best Furniture — — I Congratulate you, on your Mansion House & all that I left in it remaining safe which I believe is what you did not Expect to hear — I saw Cazneau (who was just going to attend the funeral of his Kinsman Wm. Cazneau) he informd me that he did not know of any thing they had carried away from ye House of any Consequence that he gave a Rect. to the Genl. who lived in it that he had left every thing as he recd. it — you must excuse my giving a more perticular Account at present as I had not time to make a perticular enquiry abt. things I should have been glad to have tarried longer in Town but I was obliged to be here in ye Morng early as Mr. Morton is at present absent ——

I am now to Acknowledge the Receipt of your favour of the 6th. instant — have recd. the thirty pounds agreable to your ordr. for which am much obliged & have Credited you for the same accordingly — you desire my opinion with regard to some person to settle your Books & collect your Debts — I am at present at a loss who to advise to. Cazneau has been in Town all the Voyage — Nat Glover I have never seen since you left Watertown & dont know where he is — I never was so confined in all my life as I have been since I wrote here & am almost wore out — Mr. Morton will leave his

birth

birth as ſoon as the Law Courts are open, I think I ſtand fair with the Council to ſucceed him. unleſs some one of the Council or the Secretary has ſome Connection or friend to promote which I dont know to be the Case I have never wrote to the Secretary on the ſubject as it is uncertain when Morton will go — the Court have lately made me a grant of fifty pounds for six Months Service which many of the Houſe tho't a Most enormous ſum Altho I had wrote a ~~[illegible]~~ Considerable part of the time 15 & 16 hours out of the 24 — unleſs I am likely to ſucceed Mr. Morton when he gives up (which you can know by inquiry of the Secretary which ſhall be obliged to you if you would do in ſuch manner as you think best) I ſhould rather receive the ſame wages in ſome department that was not ſo much confined — I ſhould be glad to ſerve you in ye Capacity you want a person Eſpecially if I leave here which I ſhall do unleſs I am likely to be Dpy Secy — yet I must ſay I think [illegible] full as Capable of doing your~~s~~ buſineſs as any person I know off he undoubtedly wants buſineſs having a large family to ſuppait and I think is intitled to your favours for what he has done & undergone to preserve your Interest I dont know that he would not prefer some good birth in one of the Ships of Force for which he is very capable — ſhall be glad to hear from you ſoon & believe me to be ready to ſerve you in any thing in my power — ſhan't I have the pleasure of seeing you this Spring at your Mansion House in Boston — my best Respects to your good Lady Mr. S & J Adams Mr. Paine &c

I am with Respect

Sr. Your Most Obedt. hble Servt.

John Lowell

RW 316(1)

RW 316(0)

Free [illegible]

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The Hon.ble
John Hancock Esqr.

Philadelphia

John Lowell
Letter. March. 17

Ind. 269a.